



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Hamilton Vegetation Fuel Reduction Project		
PROJECT LOCATION	The project is located directly north of the community of Hamilton Branch California and along the north side of County Highway A13	COUNTY	Plumas
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
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ADDRESS	697-345 Highway 36 Susanville, CA 96130		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A vegetation fuel reduction project is being proposed on portions of Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) property, a segment of Cal Trans, California State Highway 147 Right-of-Way (ROW) and a segment of Plumas County Road A13 ROW in conjunction with CAL FIRE. The main purpose of the proposed project is to maintain/establish an approximate 280 acre vegetation fuel reduction zone along or through portions of the landowners mentioned above where possible. The proposed project area has received some form of land management in the past such as, among other things, timber harvesting and other forest management activities; road construction, ROW maintenance, and vegetation fuel reduction zone maintenance. The vegetation generally consists of conifer/hardwood trees, shrubs, grass and forbs. The proposed project will involve the treatment of both live and dead vegetation that is currently present in the project area. Large overstory trees are not proposed for treatment other than pruning of lower limbs. Small understory trees are to be thinned and pruned. In addition, small dead and dying trees impacted by insects/disease will be treated. Further, shrubs, down woody debris and other ground vegetation are proposed for treatment. The treatment method should largely consist of hand cutting and piling of the vegetation utilizing various hand held powered and unpowered tools. Treatment of the vegetation piles will most likely consist of burning when conditions are safe. However, if available, a towable chipper may be used where feasible at any time of the year to chip the piles and scatter the material on site. No heavy equipment will be operated off of existing road surfaces and already disturbed road shoulders.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type and Section:
Class 1 - §15301 Existing Facilities
Class 4 - §15304 Minor Alterations to the Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project fits under the Class 1 & Class 4 Categorical Exemptions to CEQA. Field review by CAL FIRE personnel confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at CAL FIRE Lassen-Modoc-Plumas Unit Headquarters located in Susanville, California.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 23 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Helge Eng, Deputy Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date

5/18/18